

# critical digest



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## This Week in NYC

The 7:30 PM Wed curtain starts at all Broadway theatres and at the Phoenix Theatre, while all other Off Broadway shows will continue to start at 8:40 and 8:30 PM. League of NY Theatres decided on innovation as a result of poll which showed majority in favor of it, if it is successful it may be increased to two nights per week next season. Opening nights scheduled for Wed will also begin at 7:30 PM.

## Plays

Bye Bye Birdie moves to 54th St Theatre Oct 24... All The Way Home, Tad Mosel's adaptation of James Agee's novel "A Death in the Family" due Nov 30 at Belasco... Sailor's Knot, London comedy by Philip King and Falkland Cary to be presented by Shepard Traube... A Stranger in the Room a new mystery by Dan Harvey to be presented in Dec by Viola Rubber and the author, with Jacqueline Susann... Lurette and Tenderloin rehearsals almost took place on stage of 46th St at same time with producers of both shows claiming rehearsal rights... How to Make A Man, a new comedy by William Welch, to co-star Jan Sterling and Vicki Cummings in Jan... A Man for All Seasons, current London hit drama by Robert Bolt, to be presented in NY next season by Robert Whitehead with Paul Scofield repeating lead role.

## Players

Carol Lawrence returned to West Side Story after three week TV stint in NY and Hollywood, Carol Taylor subbed... Richard Kiley and Ed Begley to portray leading roles in Advise and Consent... Aline MacMahon to be featured in All the Way Home... Howard Fisher signed for Wildcat... Marian Winters joined The 49th Cousin.

## Playhouses

Brooks Atkinson Theatre to be dedicated Sept 7... Roxy Theatre re-sold by Webb & Knapp to Sig and Abe Sommers who plan an office building on site.

## Drama Desk

Charles McHarry, Off Broadway reviewer of NY News, moved up to replace late columnist Danton Walker... Brooks Atkinson's twice weekly column "Critic at Large" to appear Tues and Thur in NY Times starting Sept 6.

## Award Dept

J. J. Shubert was presented with a gold lifetime membership card to ATPAM (Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers.)

## NYC Calendar

Top Secret- Barbizon Plaza 9/5  
Everyman's Theatre presents new Anti-Nazi play written and directed by Ida Lublinski Erlich with John Clark, Bjorn Koefoed.

The Overcoat & BIP Sketches-City Center 9/6. NY CityCenter and Ronald Wilford present Marcel Marceau and his 8 member Compagnie de Mimes in monodrama of Gogol's novel, adapted and directed by Marceau, and a complete new set of New-Style Exercises and Pantomimes with Marceau as "BIP". Limited three week run.

H. M. S. Pinafore- Phoenix 9/7. Phoenix Theatre presents Stratford, Ont Festival production of Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera directed by Tyrone Guthrie with Eric House. Limited five week engagement.

Sign of Jonah- Players Theatre 9/8  
Donald Goldman presents George White's adaptation of Guenter Rutenborn's German play, staged by Brian Shaw with David Ford, Loraine Serabian.

## Theatre Book Notes

Three short plays by Edward Albee--The Zoo Story, The Death of Bessie Smith, and The Sand Box--to be published by Coward-McCann Sept 29.

## Theatre Ad Notes

A Country Scandal Times display ad admitted they skipped a Sun ad due to a foul-up almost as funny as some of the episodes in their comedy.

## Legal Dept

\$5 million suit filed against Actors Equity by Sherman Billingsley, Stork Club in NY State Supreme Court charging the union with urging members to boycott them since Tony Dinner fiasco.

## Theatre TV Notes

WNTA (NY) Play of the Week postponed Sept 19 debut with four hour tape of The Iceman Cometh and will instead start the season that date with a week's run of favorite programs from last season, each shown for one night--including- Medea, The Waltz of the Toreadors, Lullaby, Tiger at The Gates, World of Sholem Aleichem, and Strindberg double-bill with Miss Julie.

## Theatre Film Notes

Winkelberg by Ben Hecht to be filmed by Sam Shaw, Bob Parrish to direct... Romancero, Parish stage hit by Jacques Deval, to be filmed by Ray Stark.

## Off Broadway

Two arena theatres will be included in the reconstruction plans for Mills Hotel, Bleeker St by Renaissance Houses, Inc, Marshall Carlborn president. In addition the new hotel, which will rent rooms at \$25 per week, will include a restaurant, bar and coffee shop.

John Brown's Body closed after 76 performances... Dance of Death shifted its debut date from Sept 8 to Sept 13... Betsy von Furstenberg featured in When We Dead Awaken, David Ross is rehearsing cast of Ibsen drama at Franchot Tone's Quebec fishing lodge.

Greenwich Village, USA revue to open Sept 28 at One Sheridan Square, site of former Cafe Society Downtown which failed last year to win a theatre license for debut of Dinny and the Witches. Allen Hodshire is producer, sketches by Frank Gehrecke, music and lyrics by Jeanne Bangy, directed by Burke McHugh.

Kittiwake Island new musical with book and lyrics by Arnold Sundgaard and music by Alec Wilder, to be presented by Joe Beruh Oct 12 at Martinique... A Piece of Noon by Paul Claudel adapted by Howard Hart to be presented in Nov by Mary Jordan-Sam Silverberg, directed by Tom Brennan... Cicero a new play by Upton Sinclair to be presented by Norman Seaman - Winston Sharples, Jr-John Ben Tarver.

Constance Carpenter to be featured in Valmouth... Roberta Royce moves from A Country Scandal to Here Comes the Clowns... Ruth Livingston signed for A Delightful Season.

## Shakespeare

NY Shakespeare Festival presented plan to NY State Board of Regents seeking backing to cover travel expenses for an Oct to Mar tour of colleges and city auditoriums... NY Mayor Wagner personally guaranteed to raise the final \$11,000 required to finish The Taming of the Shrew season in Central Park. New \$w\$250,000 amphitheatre will be completed for next summer.

## Edinburgh Festival

Romulus the Great, a new anti-war play by Friedrich Duerrenmatt and Bjorn Bjornson's version of Mary Stuart presented at Edinburgh Festival last week.

## Church Drama

Shepards on the Shelf, a new farce by Rev John P O'Donnell, Quigley Prep School teacher, Chicago, to be presented by Blackfriars Guild Oct 14, directed by Michael Kray.

## DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

Ice Capades of 1961-Madison Sq Garden 8/31-9/20. 7 pro-unanimous-filled on 21st edition of John H Harris ice show with praise divided among all elements. Calta, Times, tabbed it a dazzling glacial concoction, just as eye appealing and grandiose as ever; he picked Ronnie Robertson as star in the enterprise of taste and ingenuity. Crist, Herald Tribune, rated it another whopping good show, packed with fun, spectacle and fine skating, a real cool show. Davis, News, enjoyed the admixture of classical and operatic story-telling, whirling girls, broad comedy and just pure exciting skating. Coleman, Mirror, believes current edition eclipses the lot, it has balance, beauty and buoyance, a masterpiece of its kind. Watts, Post, agreed it was one of the best of the series, with pace fast and smooth, costumes handsome and colorful, numbers artfully staged, good looking skaters whose skating is nothing short of perfect. Critic predicts they will eventually get around to doing Shakespeare on skates. McClain, Journal American, marked it the best also, superb performers, precise and swift pace, the best form of entertainment for all age groups. Wallace, World Telegram & Sun, marked it the most beautiful, the most lavish and the cleanest entertainment ever devised.

### HAMMERSTEIN TRIBUTES

NYC and London theatre lights were dimmed in honor of Oscar Hammerstein II. Broadway theatres, movies, restaurants, hotels and display signs were black for three minutes at 9 PM Sept 1 at the request of the Broadway Association. Traffic and buses were also halted. A signal flare at Duffy Sq gave a three minute warning of the blackout and taps were played. NY Mayor Wagner stated that Hammerstein's contribution to the music world will last forever. NY city was and always will be very proud of this great New Yorker, statement concluded. London's West End theatre managers dimmed their marquee lights for one minute the night following Hammerstein's death.

Hammerstein's great gift was his mounting simplicity, the true sign of a mature man, states Crosby, Herald Tribune. He worried deeply about the truth and honesty of lyrics, there was a wonderful sweetness to him that sometimes got too syrupy for comfort. There is a tremendous hopefulness about Hammerstein that few other writers ever felt, or if they did feel, had the courage to express, TV columnist noted.

There was no exaggeration in the warm tributes paid to Hammerstein's memory, surmises Watts, Post. It was the complete sincerity of his romantic spirit that gave his most sentimental lyrics their moving quality. And it was this sincerity that made the complaints of saccharinity against Sound of Music seem mistaken, argues Post aisle-sitter.

Desperately sincere and right-minded he managed to imbue his books and lyrics with a combination of simplicity, romantic optimism and gentle social consciousness that had a universal appeal, summed Gelb, Times. The sincerity of Hammerstein's personality glowed with a bright, golden haze in his work for the stage and brought audiences flocking. To the majority of his professional colleagues there was a sense of reassurance in his great popularity.

Eulogy by Howard Lindsay at brief ceremony at Ferncliff, NY stated that there was simplicity, sincerity, honesty in Hammerstein and in his lyrics, Variety reports. Those who knew him knew these qualities were not shallow ones, they gave him stature.

Theatre without Hammerstein is hard to envisage, writes Herald Tribune reader. Adding much greater luster to an already glamorous name, he brought to our hackneyed musical comedy stage a fresh and humanistic touch which transformed a dying art into a living and meaningful institution.... Post reader points out that in all the praise rightly heaped on Hammerstein, there has been little or nothing on his great liberal activities. Hammerstein opposed nuclear weapons testing, supported UNICEF and other UN projects, and worked for world federalism.

### INTER -

### VIEW

### HI - LITES



KER MIT BLOOMGARDEN, whose next production will be The Wall, has complete faith in the next generation and whatever it devises as theatre, he told Aston, World Telegram & Sun. There will always be a few gifted writers like our Herman, Miller, Williams who will use excellent language to set forth accurate, fascinating characterizations of interesting individuals they have known and understood. This will make worthwhile plays. There will be an audience for them. If a manuscript is good it can hardly miss being put on. Someone will find it, and there will always be a commercial producer to give it his best.

JANE FONDA, Invitation to a March, admits that her father had read the script of last season's "There Was a Little Girl" and had hoped she wouldn't get the role because he questioned the taste of the play, she told Fields, Mirror. But actress didn't think Henry Fonda realized that if she had refused the role she would have had a hard time getting other jobs.

RICHARD YORK, producer of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, is currently a waiter at Pablo's Restaurant, E 58th St, he told Zolotow, Times. Having raised \$5000 of the needed \$30,000 for the Off Broadway revival the San Francisco actor will continue there until rehearsals start, and then he will assume a role in the chorus of his production.

JOAN LITTLEWOOD, The Hostage director, has her own method of auditioning actors, she told Little, Herald Tribune. British Theatre Royal stager believes a straight reading shows nothing about acting, allowing no movement, and does not allow the actor's inventiveness come through. She asked a would be, and surprised, cast member, to imitate the stage manager she just met, to exhibit her Irish accent in an ad-lib scene, and to show a girl picking up a man.

HARRY HORNER, stage designer who has options to produce The Poison Tree by Hugh Brooks and Ben Hecht's adaptation of Brecht's Simone, acquired the plays primarily to direct them and is in the market for co-producers, he told Calta, Times. Designer had gone to Hollywood six years ago to get away from the filing cabinet of NY that classified him exclusively as a set designer, but he finally found that Hollywood itself is a mechanical sausage factory.

ARTHUR LAURENTS, author-director of Invitation to a March, spent the first 90 minutes of his first rehearsal reading aloud his script for the cast to give them the full intention of his meaning without a lot of intellectual discussion, reports Little, Herald Tribune. Author feels his new play is closer in feeling to "The Time of the Cuckoo" than anything else he has written.

RON RAWSON, producer of Farewell, Farewell Eugene, is positive his first Broadway production will not fail, he told Herridge, Post. Everything is exactly right for it, including the time. It's funny, warm affirmative comedy and should be a welcome relief after last year's dreary run of sordid, maudlin defeatist plays. TV announcer presented it two years ago at his East Hampton, NY summer theatre and also in London where it ran ten months with Margaret Rutherford.

BRENDAN BEHAN, The Hostage author, would not make any firm resolutions on his behavior in NY, Goodman, News, relays prior to this week's arrival. But author does claim to have limited his liquid diet to soda water since march.



## OUTER BROADWAY

### THEATRE LETTER

College-----Community-----Summer

Sept 5, 1960 Vol XII No 24 Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest"-139 E 47, NYC- El 5-6894 \$25 per year for full "CD" service

#### College Theatre

Association of Producing Artists, repertory group which played this summer in Bermuda, New Hope, Penn and East Hampton, NY- will present a season at Princeton University from Sept 28- Nov 26 at McCarter Theatre. They will present in repertory--Man and Superman, Anatol, The Lady's Not for Burning, Right You Are, The Seagull, Doctor for a Dumb Wife, The Importance of Being Earnest and one Shakespeare drama. Eli's Rabb is founder.

Poets Theatre, Cambridge, Mass, closed by Cambridge Fire Prevention Bureau. 50 seat house which has been used by various Harvard theatre groups was about to present Playwright's Workshop program of new avant garde plays including--Walking Against the Wind by Thomas Bellin, Limbo or Temptation in the Interim by Elizabeth McGuire, and Player's Repertoire by Charles Mee, Jr. Violations were overcrowding, failing to attach seats and cluttered premises.

Theatre Group, University of California at Los Angeles is holding forum discussions after its current bill of plays presented by John Houseman, directed by Lamont Johnson. Bill consists of The Sandbox by Edward Albee, This Property is Condemned, Act Without Words by Samuel Beckett and The Lesson.

Recent discussion of Theatre Group included film directors George Cukor and Richard Wilson, UCLA teachers Hans Meyerhoff and Lester Longman, reported Schumach, Times. Cukor didn't think much of any of the plays, Meyerhoff rated the Ionesco play a masterpiece by a genius not to be brushed off with a slogan, Longman panned them all as old guard rather than avant garde, and Wilson cheered the Beckett play as the first one by the author he understood.



#### Calendar- Tryouts

Come Blow Your Horn- New Hope, Penn 9/4. New comedy with Gene Rayburn, Georgann Johnson

Tambourines to Glory-Westport, 9/5 Westport Country Playhouse presents new play by Langston Hughes with Hazel Scott.

#### Package Stops- Summer Finale

Margaret Truman in Goodbye My Fancy at Paramus, NJ 9/5...Susan and God with Joan Fontaine at Millburn, NJ 9/5...Guys and Dolls with Joey Adams at Stockbridge, Mass 9/5...The Late Christopher Bean with Shirley Booth at Skowhegan, Me 9/5...Two for the Seesaw with Dane Clark and Ann Jackson at Beverly, Mass 9/5...

#### Summer Playhouses

First nighters at Westport, Conn production of The Captains and the Kings new play by Leo Lieberman polled to determine if role of Senator was offensive as charged by co-producer Lawrence Feldman. Feldman and Joel Schenker plan to bring play to NY in fall.

Canadian Shakespeare Festival, Ontario, understudies presented their production of Midsummer Night's Dream for one matinee performance.

Hit the Deck extended run for a final week to Sept 11 at Jones Beach Marine Stadium. Musical was delayed one hour in starting the night of a sudden cloud-burst on Long Island.

#### Strawhat Reviews

Ballots Up new play by Gov Foster Furcolo, Mass, presented at Traverse City, Mich, panned by Drummond, Herald Tribune. Political writer put it at the level of what a junior class in high school might put on in an unguarded moment, cliché-ridden and very unfunny, cynical as to be totally amoral.

West Side Story presented at new Guber-Ford-Gross Music Fair, Painters Mill, Md, cheered by Coleman, Mirror, as first rate. Staged by Jed Horner it is done expertly, retaining the vitality and emotional impact of the original, a bang-up job. Bob Cole, a good pick for NY talent scouts, Wisa D'Orso, Harold Da-Silva and Joy Clements are the stand-outs in the large cast.

#### New Theatres

Roslyn, NY Theatre will be converted from film house to legit starting Nov 30 by Arthur Whitelaw-Preston Fischer-Ronald Leaser for presentation of Two for the Seesaw. Long Island theatre plans to present recent Broadway hits for runs of one week each.

Cabaret Theatre, King of Prussia, Penn, will be located at Tally Ho Motel, 20 miles outside of midtown Philadelphia. H. B. Lutz-Ronald Reichman-Thaddeus Trout-William O'Donnell will present a program of plays with food and drinks available.

#### Children's Theatre

400 attended annual Children's Theatre Conference, Denver. Monte Meadham Award for "person who contributed greatly to theatre arts for children" presented to Mary Chase. Her latest children's play Loretta Mason Potts was presented at Bonfils Memorial Theatre, Denver, with Haila Stoddard and Helen Bonfils.

Eaves Costume Company annual awards for "outstanding contributions to the educational and community theatre" given to Lucy Barton, Univ of Texas, for her books on costuming, and to Winifred Evans, Evanston, Ill, for being one of the nations' first educators to introduce drama courses for children.

#### Winter Repertory

Charles Playhouse, Boston, Mass, to open fourth season Oct 4 with A Streetcar Named Desire, Frank Sigure-R J Calvin co-producers. 400 seat also will also present this season--The Cocktail Party, All My Sons, The Waltz of the Toreadors, and Waiting for Godot.





## FAMOUS FIRST NIGHTS

The Glass Menagerie-Playhouse 3/31/45-8/3/46. Unanimous pros-most raves-filed on new play by Tennessee Williams, his first full length drama presented in NY, directed by Eddie Dowling and Margo Jones with Laurette Taylor, Julie Haydon, Anthony Ross and Dowling, produced by Dowling and Louis J. Singer. NY Drama Critics prize drama ran for 561 performances and arrived in NY after much heralding from Chicago critics and audiences after a successful three month run at the Civic Theatre starting the previous Dec 26, 1944. All NY reviewers hailed entire cast and especially Taylor's portrayal, sharing praise with Jo Mielziner's sets and lighting and Paul Bowles background music. Several did have minor reservations on Williams' plotting.

Times- Lewis Nichols- "Memorable" is the only word to describe Taylor's performance. March left the theatre like a lioness, her portrait is completely perfect, combining qualities of humor and human understanding. Play is not all of the same caliber, some unconnected odds and ends which have little to do with story. But Williams has real ear for faintly sardonic dialogue, unexpected phrases and an affection for his characters.

Herald Tribune- Otis Guernsey, Jr- Top notch four character cast in an extraordinarily sensitive script come together for passages of sheer theatrical brilliance. With the author's subtle shadings and Taylor to reflect them her role is a veritable kaleidoscope of human nature. She is given first rate assistance from every quarter. Production is a newcomer to be hailed with joy and admiration from end to end on Broadway.

News- John Chapman- An enchanting play. Hypnotism of good playing by four actors, of dramatist who can show you four very unimportant, very undramatic people and make you live with them and feel for them--the hypnotism of the theatre when the theatre is used for its proper purpose of enchantment. Chicago can be forgiven for errors of School for Brides and Good Night Ladies.

Post- Wilella Waldorf- Highpoint of season so far, completely fascinating theatre. An over friendly NY first night audience did its best to disturb the delicate balance of the performance by applauding too soon and too often. Play is full of wonderful comedy, not not a gag-a-minute farce. Author has gift for simple, colloquial dialogue that achieves beauty and strength and a genuine poetic feeling that is immensely stimulating to the imagination. Taylor's performance is one that no lover of theatre will dare to miss.

World Telegram- Burton Rascoe- Never hope to see again in theatre anything as perfect as Taylor's portrayal, nor do hope many times to see anything as wonderful as Ross' performance. Here is make believe so real it tears your heart out. Play hurts you, hurts you all through, arouses in you pity, terror. Play is an event of first importance.

Sun- Ward Morehouse-Great acting shows Taylor's talent undimmed by long months of inactivity, a performance of such sustained skill and expressive force that it must be put down as the very finest Broadway has offered the entire season. Author's first NY play is fragile and poignant, vivid, eerie and curiously enchanting. It is something to see, to cheer about and to see again.

(( Digests continued in next column ))

Journal American- Robert Garland- A very fine play and a truly great performance. In all Taylor's distinguished on-stage days she has reached no greater height than this. Fresh and remarkable production. Little doubt Williams a playwright to be reckoned with, he writes deftly and well, he has something definite to say and knows how to say it definitely. The play-writing is memorable, the playacting flawless, the production is inimitable--makes it a masterpiece of make believe.

PM- Louis Kronenberger- As a play there is a great deal wrong with it, but recommend it without qualms because it makes interesting and sometimes absorbing theatre, and because Taylor is giving one of the most remarkable and fascinating performances in many seasons. Williams told much in telltale, little scenes, which are unhackney, unhokumed theatre. But he has fancied things up in other ways, has rather jumbled his technique and forced his tone. Instead of tinkling at various little Saroyanesque, Barrie-esque, Wilderesque whatnots, he might at least found suggestive the whole method of Chekhov.

## LATE NYC



## NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: She Stoops to Conquer to be first production of Phoenix starting Nov 1, following limited run of Canadian H. M. S. Pinafore which will close Oct 24. If latter is successful it may move uptown... Deep Are the Roots to be revived Oct 2 at St Marks Playhouse, Bert Conway to direct... Jack Irwin to sub this week for Bert Parks, The Music Man, who is "Miss America Contest" m. c. in Atlantic City, NJ... Joseph Anthony to replace Robert Lewis as director of Rhinoceros, which has now pushed its opening date forward to late Dec... Chester Morris signed for Advise and Consent... Philip Bosco to portray "Hercules" in The Rape of the Belt... Robert Webber to co-star with James Daly and Barbara Baxley in Period of Adjustment... Marguerite Shaw, Jeri Archer added to Tenderloin... The Tiger Rag postponed Oct debut at Theatre Marquee to Dec to allow Alan Schneider to stage The Rape of the Belt Julia Beale, replaced Alexandra Berlin, La Ronde, latter to join American Shakespeare Festival tour... Francis Peter and Eleanor Edie cast in A Delightful Season... James Frawley replaced Ronald Weyand, A Country Scandal.





#### PROS & CONS BY TMK

**STATE BARD...** NY Shakespeare Festival's proposal that NY State Board of Regents supply state funds to back a low priced admission tour of colleges and city auditoriums is an idea that merits consideration, comments Herald Tribune editorial: Government subvention isn't the way to cure theatrical ills. But there are educational and cultural aspects that make Joe Papp's enterprise rather different from ordinary commercial theatre. What the state is being asked to do is not to support the NY Shakespeare Festival, but to help enable it to travel. Albany has spent money worse in the past.

**COLUMN TIPS...** Several forthcoming Broadway shows have not completed their financing because the SEC has started a strict enforcement of their regulations, hints Lyons, Post ... Greer Garson sought by Jed Harris for a new Christopher Isherwood version of Hedda Gabler, hears Coleman, Mirror.

**OFF BWAY CAUTION...** Off Broadway's artistic successes but financial flops of yesteryear seems to have blunted the lances of the faithful whose declared interest is in keeping the theatre alive as an art, ascertains Silver, News. It is questionable if the new season will be brave, bold or experimental. There will be some exceptions, but in the main Off Broadway will perform its several other functions such as providing a training ground and showcase for young talent, giving stars a chance to exercise their art with classics, and trying again with potentially good plays that did not make it on Broadway.

**DESIGNERS PROBLEMS...** Stage designers such as Jo Mielziner, Howard Bay, Oliver Smith, Peter Larkin, cope with enough problems to run the average artist crazy, Canaday, Times, concludes after talking with the quartet of theatre craftsmen. Art editor believes that any contemporary painter who as much as halfway knows his theory and his craft must have a deep respect for his cousin, the stage designer. He must be bright enough to please the public, the director, the star, and himself as a creative artist. He must also be a combination painter, sculptor, architect, psychologist and traffic engineer, and it is a big help if he knows his music, literature, history and physics.

**CRITICAL THOUGHTS...** Why don't the NY critics enter the George Jean Nathan-Cornell University Awards contests, asks Graham, Mirror, in learning that most entries are from out-of-town writers.... Theatre tickets are still lower priced than most NY sports events, details Davis, News... Summer press agent's type of calling Noel Coward's Private Lives a "naught" play rather than a "nauty" one was right the first time, believes Watts, Post.

**THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS...** "A Wayward Quest" autobiography of Theresa Helburn (Little Brown \$5) recommended as a touching and sprightly memoir of the founder and former co-director of Theatre Guild, by Rodo, Variety.

**THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS...** The Andersonville Trial original cast album (20th Century Fox) with songs of Civil War by Henry Nemo isn't helped by breaks of music, pans Kupferberg, Herald Tribune. Each time a song breaks into the fine performances the mood is dissipated and the drama wrecked.



The 7:30 PM Wed curtain is the League of NY Theatres' gift to the suburban playgoer and to all those who insist on eight hours sleep per night. Unless the Pennsylvania Railroad strike is settled the first week will not be a test. Stage managers being as human as patrons, so they say, it is assumed that the 7:30 PM curtain actually means all shows will be underway by 7:45 PM, and most will break about 10:15 PM. Thus it will be just as difficult for the commuter to grab a cab on Wed night as any other evening, but that's show business. If successful the League promises that the 7:30 PM curtain may be extended next season to two nights per week. Before this is settled upon, a more scientific study should be determined to find the most convenient starting time and days of the week of the customer, not the theatre owner.

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Dimming of Broadway's lights for three minutes was a sentimental tribute to Oscar Hammerstein II, even though it came a full week after the London theatre managers had set the precedent. In a decade of NY theatre name-changing, it would seem right for a theatre associated with the past glories of the author, such as the St James, to be renamed as the Oscar Hammerstein Theatre.

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The value of the NY Shakespeare Festival as a worthwhile educational, cultural and professional enterprise can no longer be questioned, and its appeal for NY state funds to aid in a touring program of colleges and city auditoriums is a just one. But if the money is forthcoming it should not be on an exclusive basis. Other groups that equal the talent, taste and enterprise of Joe Papp's productions should also be aided in bringing good theatre to all of NY state.

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It's Brooks Atkinson Week again in NY theatre. The Mansfield is being formally dedicated and his new twice weekly column starts in the Times. Now anything less than naming a super-highway or a river after the popular critic would seem an anti-climax.

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Off Broadway is getting a four play head start on Broadway this season and seems unlikely to ever catch up in the record books. To charge that Off Broadway producers are playing it safe from the commercial standpoint is to forget the huge number of two and three performance productions of avant garde plays presented last season. This year, as in all recent seasons, Off Broadway provides the widest possible theatre education in both the classics and avant garde plays, two fields Broadway with the exception of Shaw and Shakespeare productions just skip.

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NY theatre fans can get their TV sets fixed after a summer of rest for the week of Sept 19 when WNTA starts its season with five favorite "Play of the Week" tapes from last year starting with the fabulous Medea production starring Judith Anderson. This production could set a standard for both Broadway and Off Broadway that would be hard to measure any year.

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If Off Broadway producers are worriers they might book their next show into the new arena theatres promised for the Mills Hotel. They can raise money for their brain child, and insure themselves a low-priced hotel room for one and the same budget.

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Sept 5, 1960 THEATRE FACT CHART--CRITICAL DIGEST-139 E 47, NYC EL 5-6894  
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Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening dates are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific critical details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town Tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back investment.)

"B"-Business figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety gross estimates of past week and preceding weeks. Thus 100% B- Cap \$80--\$80-\$76 \$75-- means show was a sellout last week at \$80,000, the previous week's gross was \$76,000, etc

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BEST MAN	235 W 45	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves
Morosco \$7.50 3/31/60	Cl 6-6230	100% B- Cap \$40--\$39 \$40 \$39 \$36 \$39
BYE BYE BIRDIE	302 W 45	90% C- 1 Con- Times -rest all raves
Beck \$8.60 4/14/60	Cl 6-6363	100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$58 \$57 \$57 \$58
FIORELLO!	235 W 44	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book
Broadhurst \$9.40 11/23/59	Cl 6-6699	100% B- Cap \$58--\$59 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$59
FIVE FINGER EXERCISE	245 W 45	90% C- 1 Con- News- 5 raves
Music Box \$7.50 12/2/59	Cl 6-4636	40% B- Cap \$40--\$18 \$17 \$15 \$14 \$15 \$15
GYPSY	249 W 45	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book
Imperial \$9.40 5/21/59	CO 5-2412	80% B- Cap \$64--\$50 \$51 resumed 8/14
LA PLUME	242 W 45	100% C- 6 raves- Times milder
Royale \$8.05 11/1/58	Cl 5-5760	80% B- Cap \$45--\$38 \$35 \$34 \$32 \$36 \$36
MIRACLE WORKER	137 W 48	100% C- 5 raves-Times, WTS milder
Playhouse \$7.50 10/19/59	Cl 5-6060	100% B- Cap \$36--\$36 \$35 \$32 \$30 \$31 \$31
MUSIC MAN	245 W 44	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder
Majestic \$8.05 12/19/57	Cl 6-0730	75% B- Cap \$70--\$47 \$45 \$41 \$40 \$44 \$44
MY FAIR LADY	235 W 51	100% C- 7 raves Play-News Ok P Charls
Hollinger \$8.05 3/15/56	PL 7-7064	75% B- Cap \$70--\$59 \$57 \$53 \$50 \$52 \$51

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY	159 Bleeker	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS
Circle \$4.50 3/3/60	GR 3-4950	3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
BETWEEN 2 THIEVES	64 & 1st Av	3 Pro- Times, J Am, WTS
York \$4.50 2/11/60	TR 9-4130	2 Con- H Trib, Post
COUNTRY SCANDAL	131 W 13	6 Pro- NO Mirror
G Mews \$3.90 5/5/60	GR 3-6800	Sat to Thur- No Fri's
FANTASTICKS	181 Sullivan	5 Pro-
Sullivan \$4.60 5/3/60	OR 4-3838	1 Con- H Trib- No Mirror
HIT THE DECK	NYC Phone	7 pro for outdoor musical
Jones Beach \$4.85 6/23/60	CA 1-1000	Closes Sept 11
KRAPP'S LAST TAPE	133 MacDoug	6 Pro- No Mirror
Provine \$4.50 1/14/60	GR 7-9894	
LA RONDE	110 E 59	1 Pro- WTS ( rave )
T Marquee \$3.90 5/9/60	PL 3-2575	5 Con- All mild ( No Mirror )
LEAVE IT TO JANE	99-7th Av S	5 Pro-
Sher Sq \$5 5/25/59	CH 2-9244	2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE	126-2nd Av	6 Pro- 4 raves-No Mirror
Orpheum \$4.95 11/18/59	OR 4-8140	
MAN & SUPERMAN	351 E 74	4 Pro- H Trib, News, J Am, Post
Jan Hus \$3.90 8/16/60	LE 5-6310	2 Con- Times, WTS
3 PENNY OPERA	121 Chris	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
De Lys \$4.85 9/20/54	WA 4-8782	
LIVING REPERTORY	530-6th Av	Connection-5 Con-1 Pro-Post 7/5/59
Living \$3.45	CH 2-4569	Theatre Chance-1 Pro-Post 6/22/60
SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL	NYC Phone	12th Nite-13 Pro-News, Mir, J Am
Stratford Conn \$5.75	CA 6-6047	Tempest-5 Pro-1 Con-Trib-no Mir
		Antony- 5 pro 1 Con-Trib-No Mir

SOUND OF MUSIC	205 W 44	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib-3 raves
Lunt \$9.90 11/16/59	ju 6-5555	100% B- Cap \$75--\$76 \$76 \$75-VGcat.
TAKE ME ALONG	225 W 44	90% C- 1 Con- Mir-2 raves-News, WTS
Shubert \$9.40 10/22/59	Cl 6-5910	80% B- Cap \$64--\$54 \$50 \$49 \$50 Vac.
TENTH MAN	222 W 45	100% C- 7 pro-2 raves-Times, News
Booth \$7.50 11/5/59	Cl 6-5969	80% B- Cap \$32--\$26 \$27 \$26 \$23 \$22
THURBER CARNIVAL	245 W 52	100% C- 6 raves-Mir milder
ANTA \$7.50 2/26/60	Cl 6-6270	Re-Opened Sept 5
TOYS IN ATTIC	141 W 44	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder
Hudson \$7.50 2/25/60	JU 6-2237	55% B- Cap \$40--\$24 \$22 \$22 \$18 \$22 \$23
WEST SIDE STORY	1674 Bway	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical
W Garden \$8.05 4/27/60	Cl 5-4878	75% B- Cap \$64-- \$45 \$44 \$44 \$40 \$43

LONDON OPENINGS

Next Time Yes- Lyric Opera 9/5  
Waiting in Wings-Duke York 9/7  
Happy Haven- Royal Court 9/14  
Once Upon Mattress-Adelphi 9/20

TV THEATRE PROGRAMS

Oct 22- CBS- The Disenchanted on Show of Month  
Oct 24- NBC- Shangri-La on Hall of Fame  
Nov 20- NBC- Macbeth on Hall of Fame with Judith Anderson  
Feb 7- NBC- Time Remembered on Hall of Fame

"CD" Pros & Cons

PROS: Best Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Five Finger Exercise, Gypsy  
La Plume, Miracle Worker, Music Man, My Fair Lady  
Take Me Along, Thurber Carnival, Toys Attic, West Side Story

Balcony, Country Scandal, Fantasticks, Krapp's Last Tape  
Leave It to Jane, Little Mary Sunshine, 3 Penny Opera

CONS: Sound of Music, Tenth Man

Between 2 Thieves, La Ronde

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Top Secret-Bar Pl 9/5  
Overcoat(Marcuse)-C. Center 9/6  
H M S Pinafore-Phoenix 9/7  
Sign of Jonah- Players 9/8  
Vintage '60- Atkinson 9/12  
Dance of Death- Key 9/13  
World of Carl Sandberg-Miller 9/14  
Here Comes the Clowns-Actors Play 9/19  
The Hostage- Cort 9/20  
The Idiot- Gate 9/25  
Christopher's Wonders-Maidman 9/26  
Farewell, Farewell Eugene-Hayes 9/27  
A Delightful Season- Gram Arts 9/28  
Greenwich Village- USA- 1 Sher Sq 9/28  
Irma La Douce-Plymouth 9/29

Provincetown Show-Provincetown 10/1  
When We Dead Awaken-4th St 10/3  
A Taste of Honey-Lyceum 10/4  
Drums Under the Window-C Lane 10/4  
Becket- St James 10/6  
Valmouh- York - 10/6  
Mike & Elaine Revue-Golden 10/8  
Laughs & Other Events-Barr 10/10  
The Wall- Rose 10/11  
Kittiwake Island-Martinique -10/12  
Sheperds on the Shelf-Blackfriars-10/14  
Tenderloin- 46th St- 10/17  
Shoemaker & Peddler-East 74- 10/13

Face of a Hero-O'Neill 10/22  
49th Cousin- Ambassador 10/25  
Invitation to March-M Box 10/26  
Laurette- Beck- 10/27  
Plough & Stars-Phoenix 10/?

Rape of the Belt-ANTA 11/2  
Unsinkable M Brown- W Garden 11/3  
The Mousetrap-Maidman 11/5  
Period of Adjustment-Hayes 11/10  
Open Up Your Heart- 11/10  
Taffy- 11/15  
Camelot-Majestic 11/16  
Under Yum Yum Tree-Miller 11/16  
Advis & Consent-Cort 11/17  
Tree Grows Bklyn-Bar Pl 11/28  
Love & Libel- 11/30  
All the Way Home-Belasco 11/30

Little Moon Alban-Longacre 12/1  
Rhinoceros- 12/3  
Critic's Choice-Barrymore 12/14  
Wildcat- Alvin 12/15  
Do Re Mi-St James 12/26  
The Tiger Rag-T Marquee 12/?

The Hero- ANTA 1/5  
Showgirl- 1/14  
Love & Death- 1/15



\$25 check  
Bill Co

This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE-now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professionals--college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc--published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive editorial coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific date and/or specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone. \$25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956--\$25 each.

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Organization..... City, State.....

